



California State
Board of Equalization

MICHELLE STEEL newsletter



"Fighting for California Taxpayers"

Dear friends,

Last year I had the pleasure of hosting over 5,000 residents of the Third District at more than two dozen tax seminars and workshops in Orange, Riverside, and San Diego counties.

These seminars, which I will continue to host throughout this year, help Californians meet and learn from experts in state tax laws and regulations about how to navigate California's complex tax code, stay out of trouble, and keep their businesses and organizations focused and growing.

Running a business in California is no easy task. High tax rates, burdensome regulations, and a complex tax code make it difficult for even the most seasoned professionals to understand the rules, and ensuring compliance can be both expensive and time consuming.

California's businesses are the backbone of our state's economy. Our state cannot succeed without the jobs, services, products, and also the tax revenue that California's businesses create. Entrepreneurs of every type risk their futures and take valuable time away from their families to turn their ideas into a marketable reality. I believe it's our duty to help them succeed.

Besides helping taxpayers understand the current system, another way to help California taxpayers and businesses is to reform our state tax system into one that is lower, flatter, and fairer for all of us. President Ronald Reagan and his 1981 federal tax cut can help teach us the benefits of reducing taxes and cutting red tape to help our economy grow.



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In the News

Upcoming Events

An update on taxpayer education events coming up in March.

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The Steel Summary

February

Below, you will see an [opinion piece](#) I wrote in the Orange County Register commemorating Ronald Reagan's 103rd birthday that discusses the positive impact of his tax cut plan and how the principles behind it could help California flourish once again.

As always, I am honored to serve as your taxpayer advocate. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



Michelle Steel

Vice Chair

California State Board of Equalization

In The News

Michelle Steel: Reagan Revolution's lessons apply today

(Op-ed: Orange County Register)

BOE Votes to cut gas excise tax by 10 percent

(Michelle Steel, Flashreport.org)

State gasoline tax to drop July 1

(Jonathan Horn, UT-San Diego)

Gas tax reduced by State

(East County Magazine)

Board of equalization lowers excise tax rate for gasoline

(Debra Gruszecki, Press-Enterprise)

California gas tax to decline

(NACSONline)

State considers lower gasoline excise tax rate

(Palo Verde Times)

Board of Equalization wants to drop fuel excise tax

1st—Steel sponsors the Orange County kick-off event for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance with the Orange County United Way at Irvine Valley College.

5th—Steel speaks at the Hong Kong Association of Southern California's Chinese New Year reception in Newport Beach.

12th—Steel speaks at the Rossmore Woman's club.

17th—President's Day.

20th—Steel speaks at the Fountain Valley Mayor's breakfast.

25th—Board of Equalization Meeting in Culver City.

26th—Board of Equalization Meeting in Culver City.

27th—Board of Equalization Meeting in Culver City.

27th—Steel sponsors a free tax seminar for non-profit and faith-based organizations in Tustin with the City of Tustin.

March

5th—Steel hosts a free small-business tax seminar in Irvine.

13th—Steel hosts a free food industry tax seminar in Brea.

18th—Steel hosts a free small-business tax seminar in Indio.

25th—Board of Equalization Meeting in San Francisco.

Upcoming Taxpayer Events

On **March 5**, I will be hosting a free small-business tax seminar with the City of Irvine at the Irvine Civic Center Council Chambers.

Entrepreneurs and small-business owners looking for answers and help with state and federal tax laws, as well as business people who want to expand their business knowledge, will benefit from presentations by representatives from the BOE, the Employment Development Department, Franchise Tax Board, Internal Revenue Service, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Click [here](#) to see the invitation, and you can register [here](#).

I will be hosting a similar event at the Indio Teen Center on March 18. You can find the invitation [here](#), and register at this [link](#).

On **March 13**, I will be hosting a free food industry tax seminar at the Brea Civic and Cultural Center. This is an ideal event for restaurant and bar owners, mobile food vendors, and all others who would like to start or expand a food-industry business.

Representatives from the BOE, Department of Alcohol Beverage Control, and Employment Development Department will offer presentations that will answer questions about sales and use tax, identifying taxable items, tip and wage reporting, happy hour rules about pricing below cost, unemployment insurance information, what licenses businesses need to post, what owners need to provide new employees, information for food trucks and mobile food vendors.

You can find the invitation [here](#), and register by clicking [here](#).

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance programs continue throughout the Third District until April 15. For more information, and to find a VITA event near you, please visit the [Free Income Tax Preparation](#) page on my website.

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[California Use Tax Form](#)

[Claim for Refund Form](#)

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